common occurrence in the recent past. In order to prevent such calls, an awareness campaign is needed to educate mariners.

(d) Maritime operations in the country get enhanced by way of increase in tonnage and due to expansion of exim trade. Recommendations of National Shipping Board as at (b) and (c) above may also facilitate the growth of maritime operations in the country.

Conversion of Highways into six lanes

4616. SHRI S.M.LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made plans to convert some highway sectors to six lane highways;

(b) if so, whether all such conversion to six lane highways would be clubbed under NHDP-V to cover 5,000 kms;

(c) the States where the NHDP-V would be implemented;

(d) the extent of lengths which would be converted into six lanes; and

(e) whether cost-benefit studies have been done for conversion to six lane highways from four lane highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Committee on Infrastructure, set up by the Government, has considered a presentation made by the Planning Commission involving programmes with a total investment of Rs. 1,72,000 crore for upgradation of National Highways in next seven years (2005-2012). Six laning of around 5000 kms under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase V is one of the seven programmes included in the proposal.

(c) to (e) It is too early to give the details for NHDP Phase V.

Road Projects under BOT System

4617. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a facts that Government had decided that all future projects of NHAI under NHDP-III, NHDP-IV and NHDP-V would be taken up totally under BOT system;